

REMARKS

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Applicants have received and reviewed an Office Action dated February 2, 2007. By way of response, Applicants have amended claim 37 and canceled claims 1-26, 38, and 40-41 without prejudice. Claim 37 is amended for clarity only. No new matter is presented. Claims 37 and 39 are pending. Applicants submit that the pending claims are supported by the specification.

For the reasons given below, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 37 and 39 have been allowed.

35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 36 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Claim 36 has been canceled, making the rejection moot.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Masalova (J. Med. Virol. 55: 1-6) and Papatheodoridis (J. Hepatol. 24: 36-41), or over Simmonds, WO 93/10239 in view of Ling, GB 2,051,357 and Schonbrunner, GB 2,313,666, and further in view of either Lacroix, EP 507,615 or Seidel et al., US 6,183,949. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, without conceding to the Examiner's arguments of obviousness, and solely to further prosecution of the application, claims 18 and 20 have been canceled. The rejection is therefore moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

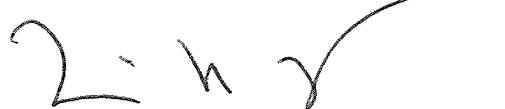
Claims 21, 23 and 25-28 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over either of Masalova and Papatheodoridis or over Simmonds, in view of Ling and Schonbrunner as applied to claim 18 above, and further in view of Cheng et al., US 5,627,080. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, without conceding to the Examiner's arguments of obviousness, and solely to further prosecution of the application, claims 21, 23, and 25-28 have been canceled. The rejection is therefore moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Summary

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

30 July 2007
Date



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